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Marvel

30th Dec. 1994
No 188 80p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

ALL NEW!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Win a Thomas Playtrack!

Learn about Museums and Railways!

52
9 770954 939060

Happy Christmas!

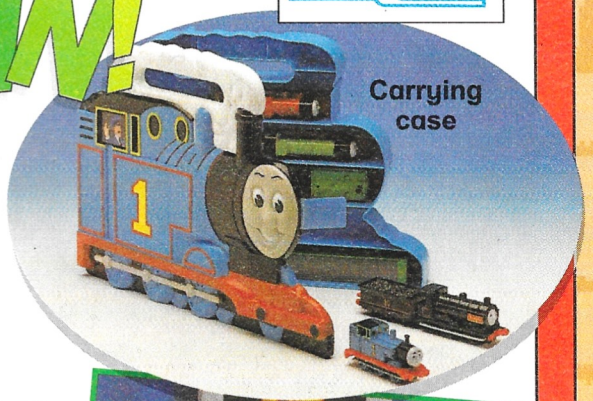
ALL AB

• Notice Board! •

Peep! Peep! It's Christmas time on the Island of Sodor! Snow is falling all around and the engines have to be particularly careful not to get stuck in snowdrifts! Even Harold the Helicopter is finding it difficult, flying through the snowy sky! You can read all about him in our first story "Snowing and Blowing!" In our special railway feature, you can learn about some very exciting museums. Percy the Saddletank Engine also meets a very unusual traction engine in his read aloud adventure, "Percy's Engine!" And finally, find out what the mischievous twins, Bill and Ben, are up to in our last story, "Push and Pull!" Do you think they'll be having a 'tug of war'?

WIN! WIN! WIN!

ERTL®



Here's your chance to be the lucky winner of a Thomas carrying case or playtrack in our special Christmas readers offer! 12 lucky 1st prize winners may win a carrying case, which will hold up to 24 of their favourite miniature engines, while a further 12 second prize winners may win a special edition playtrack which they can use to play with all their miniature models! To win one of these special prizes, simply answer the following question:

Where do Bill and Ben, the saddle tank twins work on the Island of Sodor?

Is it a. the Quarry Line, b. Gordon's Hill, or c. the China Clay pits at Brendam Bay?

Send the correct answer on a postcard to:

ERTL/Thomas Christmas Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13/15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX

by January 13th, 1995!

This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Ltd., and ERTL Europe. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes that are lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

You can also win a *Brio Train* Set on page 19!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Jim Galton; Chairman; Michael Z.Hobson; Managing Director; Paul Neary, Editorial Director; Alan O'Keefe, Group Editor; David Paul Boyle, Editor; Helen Nally, Art Director; Gary Gilbert, Designer; Mark Irvine & Irfan Unis, Production. Office of Publication: 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX. All **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS** material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 071 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

ABC AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS CONSUMER PRESS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

Contents

4. "Snowing and Blowing!"
Why is Harold causing such a stir at the Town Hall?

8. Museums to visit.
What do you know about steam engines?

10. Your letters for the Fat Controller.
It's time to see if your drawing has been printed!

12. ABC mural.
H (h) is for hat!

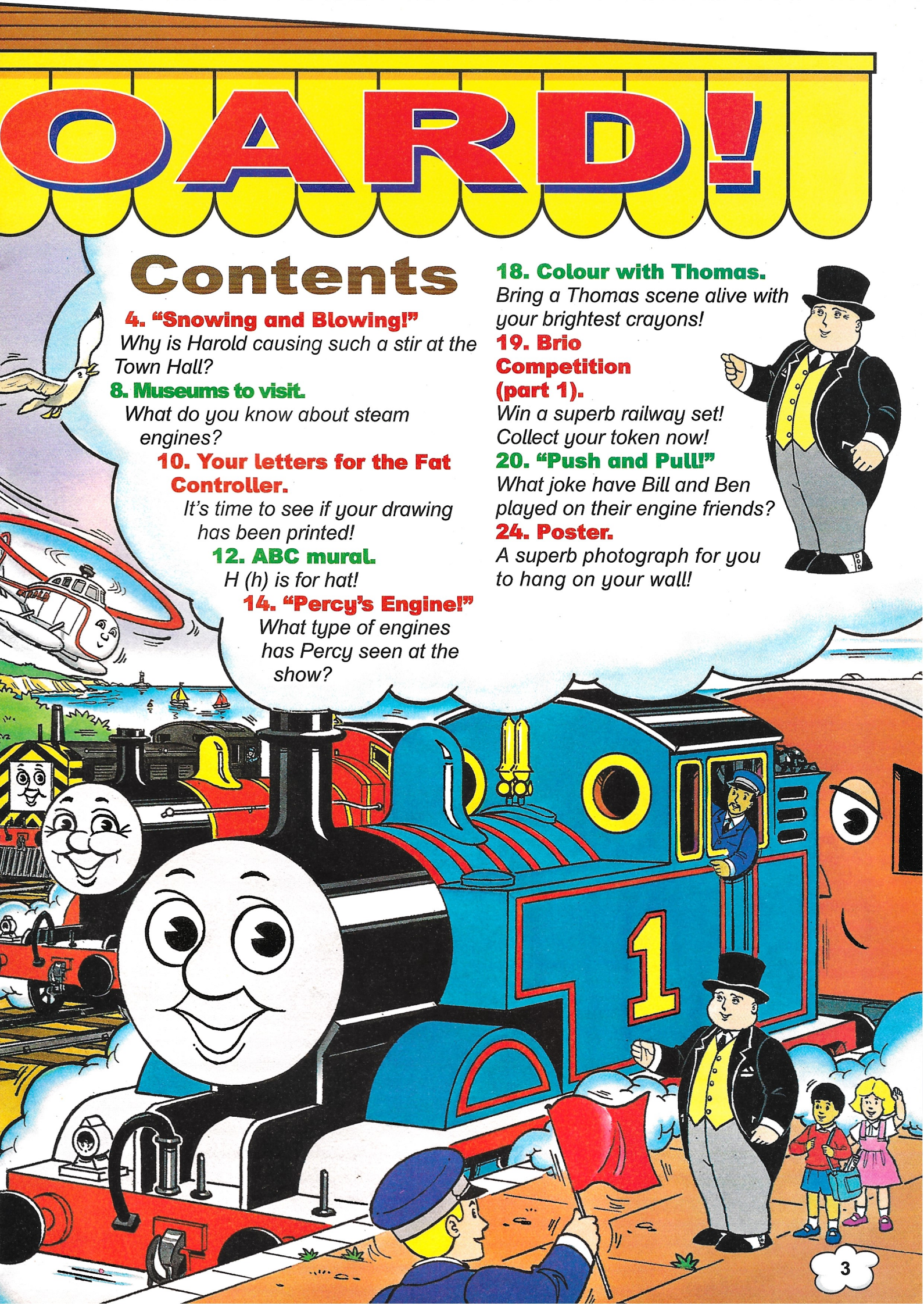
14. "Percy's Engine!"
What type of engines has Percy seen at the show?

18. Colour with Thomas.
Bring a Thomas scene alive with your brightest crayons!

19. Brio Competition (part 1).
Win a superb railway set! Collect your token now!

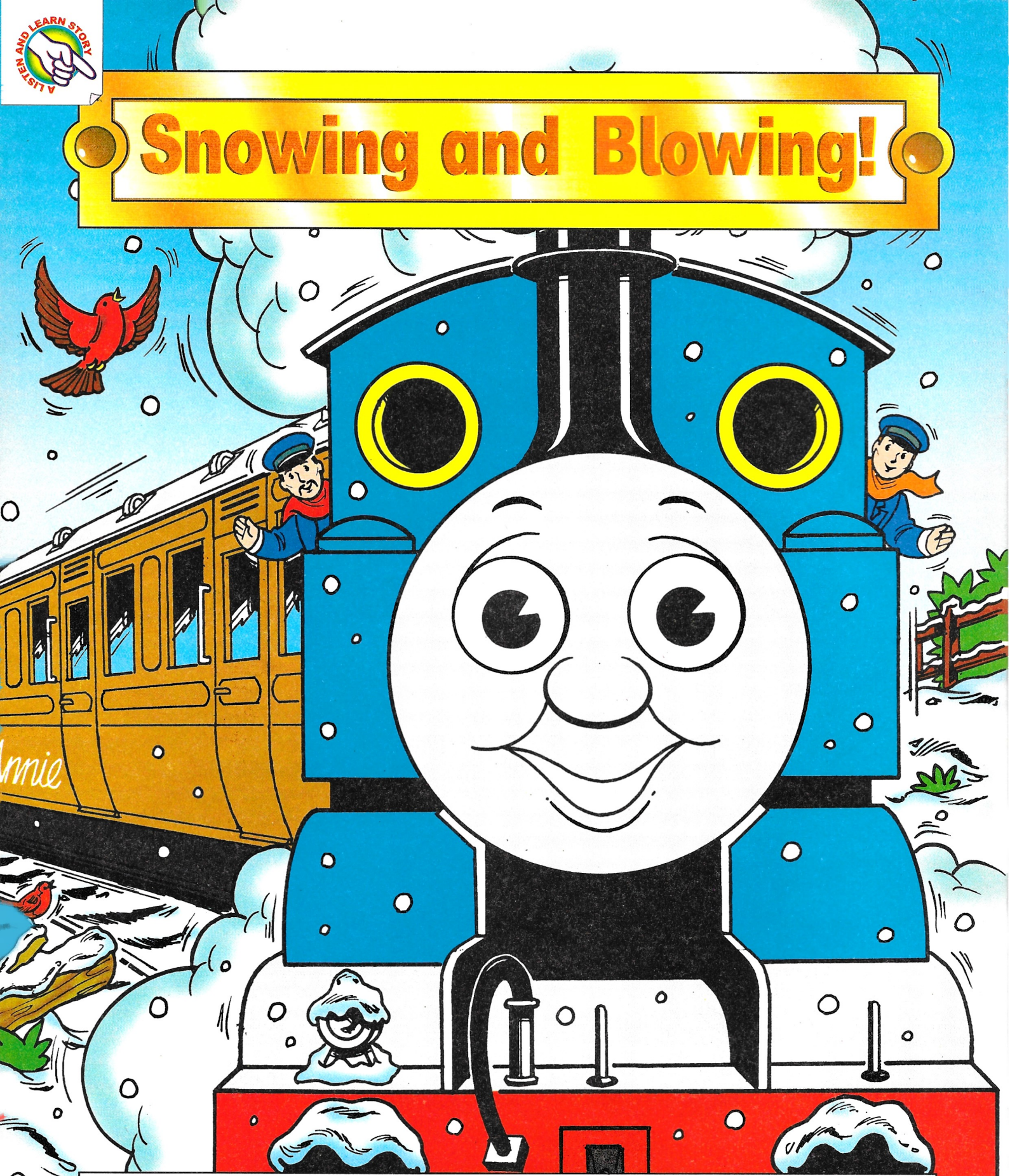
20. "Push and Pull!"
What joke have Bill and Ben played on their engine friends?

24. Poster.
A superb photograph for you to hang on your wall!



A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

Snowing and Blowing!

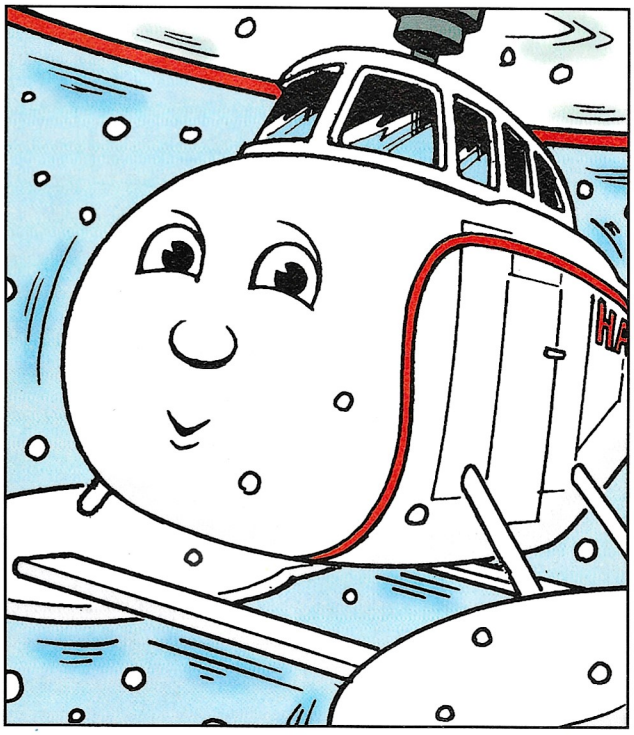


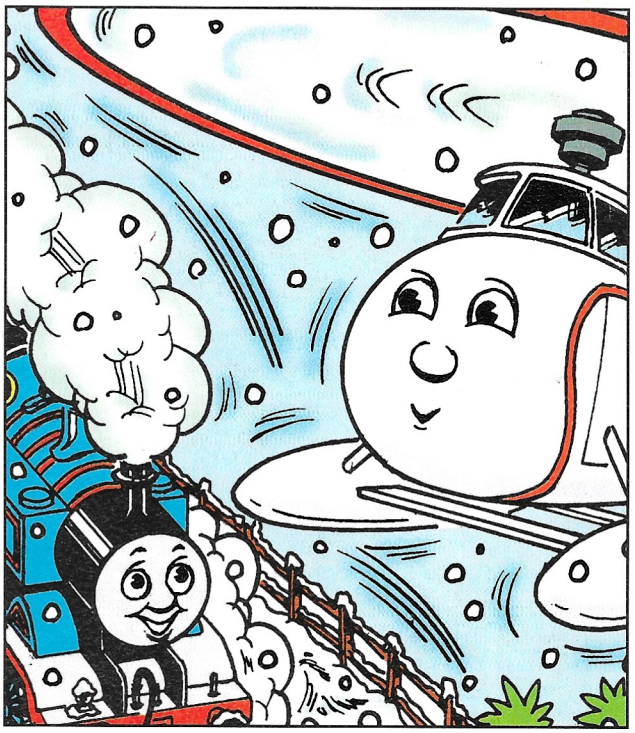
1. A New Year's Eve party was to be held at the town hall in Wellsworth. Thomas was on his way there with some important passengers.

2. Thomas proudly pulled his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel. Inside them were the Fat Controller, Lady Hatt and the Vicar.

3. Thomas carried lots of businessmen too. He puffed slowly through the thick snow. "I'm a Really Useful Engine," thought Thomas.

4. Harold the Helicopter flew by. "I'm collecting the Mayor," he boasted. "He knows flying is a much faster way to travel in this weather!"



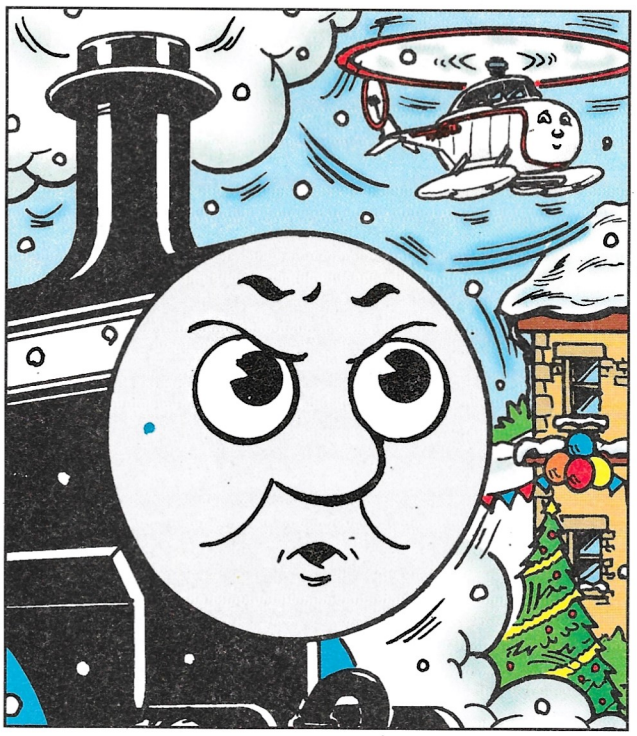


5. "The Mayor is visiting the far side of the Island of Sodor," Harold told Thomas, "but I'll get him to the party in Wellsworth on time!"

6. As Harold hovered, his whirly blades blew snow everywhere. "Look out!" yelled Thomas. "Just mind you don't do that again!"

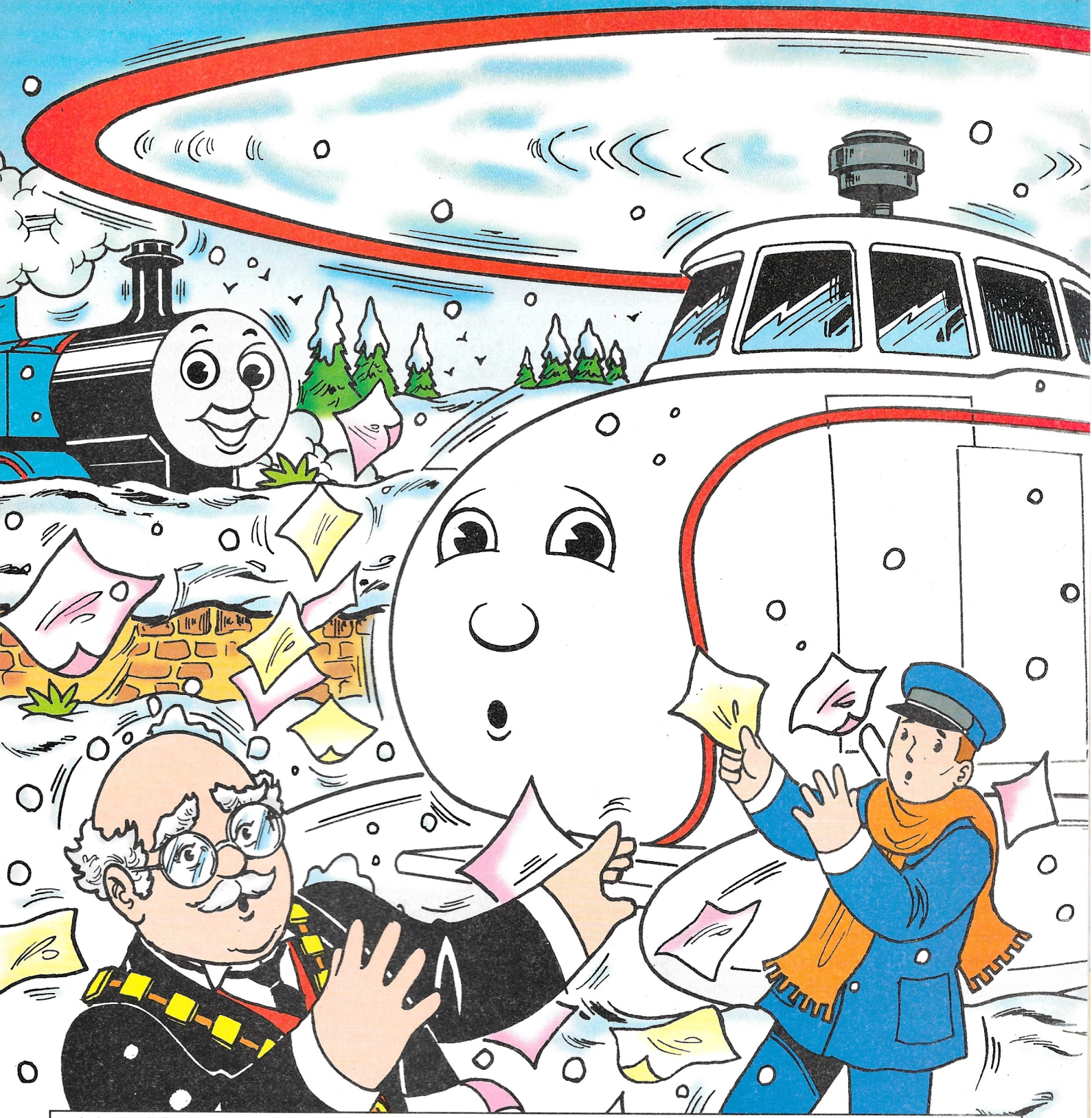
7. "You're only jealous!" laughed Harold, whizzing off. At last, Thomas rolled into Wellsworth Station and his passengers got out.

8. "Well done, Thomas!" said the Fat Controller, and everyone went to the town hall nearby. Before long, they heard Harold arrive.



9. Harold swooped in to land, right outside the town hall. "What a show-off!" hissed Thomas as all the people went to meet the Mayor.

10. But Harold's spinning blades suddenly blew snow all over the people coming to greet the Mayor. Their hats went flying.

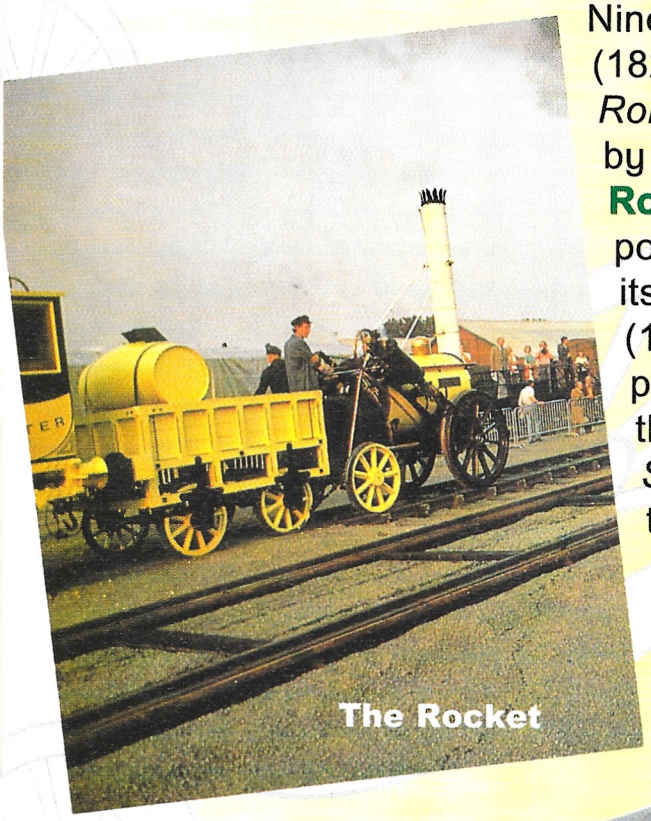


11. "Stop! Stop!" everyone shouted crossly. At last, Harold's blades were still. The Mayor stepped out of the helicopter. "I'm sorry, sir!" said Harold. "I'll come back for you after the party." Harold started up his motor. This time, his huge, spinning blades covered the Mayor in snow...

12. ...and they blew away his speech too! After Harold's blades had stopped turning, everyone helped pick up the Mayor's speech. "I think I'll go home by train!" said the Mayor. Thomas had seen it all. "I tried to warn Harold," he thought. "I may be slow, but at least I don't blow snow!"

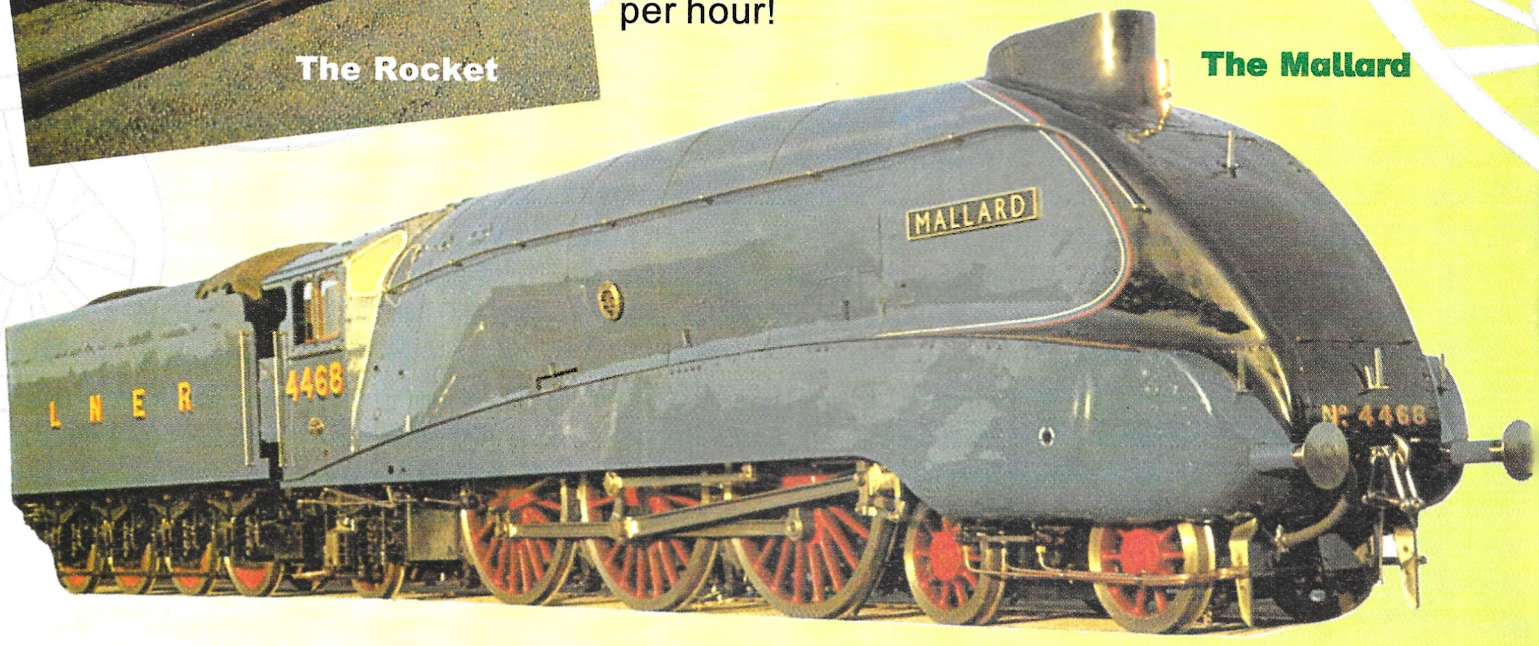
Railway Mus

The York Railway Museum is the biggest railway museum in the world, and it tells us all about railway transport from as far back as the early Nineteenth Century! In Eighteen Twenty Nine (1829) the introduction of the *steam* engine, *Robert Stephenson's* '**The Rocket**', made travel by rail much faster and more efficient. **The Rocket's** wheels could run faster because more powerful blasts of *steam* were produced through its boiler cylinders. In Nineteen Thirty Eight (1938), The London and North Eastern Railway produced the first Express Passenger Engine, the '**Mallard**'. This was an improved model of *Stephenson's Rocket*. The '**Mallard**' still holds the world speed record for a *steam* engine, having reached speeds of one hundred and twenty six (126) miles per hour!



The Rocket

The Mallard



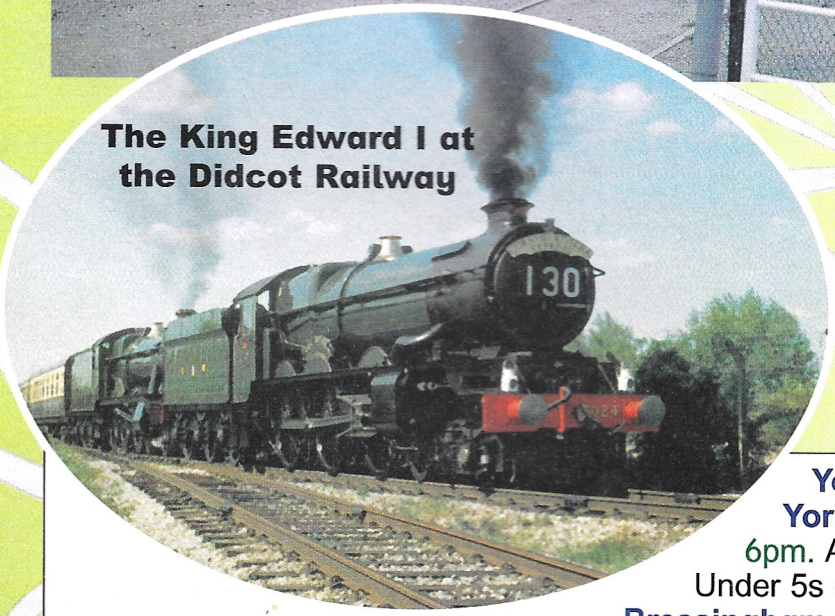
The Bressingham Steam Museum was originally organised by Alan Bloom, who was very interested in *steam* powered engines, and from its small beginnings, it now welcomes over one hundred thousand (100,000) visitors a year!

The working *steam* engines pass through some of the most scenic countryside, including lovely gardens, rivers, lakes, and woods thick with plants! The Bressingham Museum has maintained many *steam* engines, but the centrepiece of their engine shed is '**The Royal Scot**'. This is the second

eums to visit!

The Royal Scot

most famous engine behind '**The Flying Scotsman**', which runs from London to Glasgow! The railway plans to stage two '**Friends of Thomas the Tank Engine**' weekends during 1995. Parents may contact the Bressingham Museum to confirm dates.



The King Edward I at the Didcot Railway

At Didcot Railway Centre, the golden age of the Great Western Railway, designed by *Isambard Kingdom Brunel*, has been recreated. Visitors can see a collection of *steam* engines, some restored, others in stages of repair.

York Railway Museum, Leeman Rd., York YO2 4XJ. Open: Mon to Sat 10 to 6pm. Admission: Adults £4.20, Child £2.10, Under 5s (free). Tel. 0904 621261.

Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens, Bressingham, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2AB.
Open (April to September): Mon to Sun 10 to 5:30pm. (Also open during Oct. on Sunday and school half term. Additional pre-booked educational services are available to schools between Oct and Mar.) Admission: Adults £3.45 - £3.90, Child £2.45 - £2.85, Under 4s (free). Tel. 0379 88386.

Didcot Railway Centre, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 7NJ.
Open: Saturdays and Sundays all year except December 25th, daily Apr. to Sept. (also 22nd to 30th October) 11 to 5pm. Admission: Adults £3 to £5 depending on event. Tel. 0235 817200.

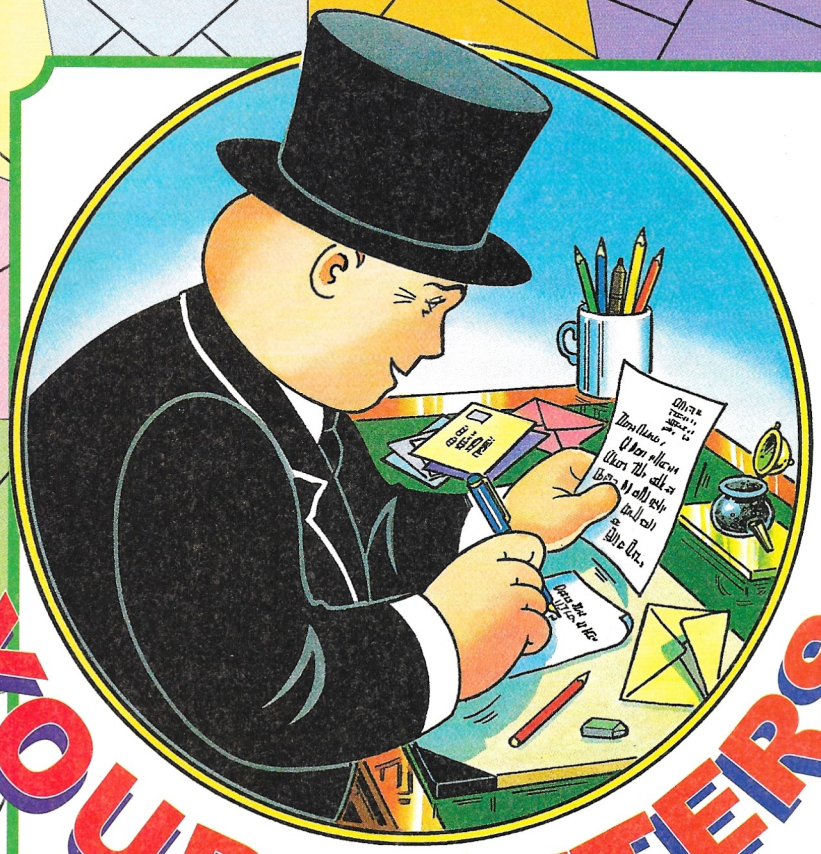
FREE! **These vouchers entitle one child to visit both the York and Bressingham Museums, free of charge, if accompanied by a paying adult. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. York Railway Museum vouchers are valid from 26th May to 31st Oct.' 1995 while Bressingham Steam Museum vouchers are valid from Apr. to Oct .'1995.**

VOUCHER

BRESSINGHAM
STEAM MUSEUM AND GARDENS

VOUCHER

National Railway Museum York



YOUR LETTERS

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas Pre-school toys!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
Why do the trucks push the engines off the line?
Love from **Matthew Robshaw, aged 4.**

The trucks become most troublesome to the engines when there is a long line of them. Most of my engines have trouble staying on the line when so many angry trucks bump them. Stronger engines such as Henry and Gordon tend to handle the trucks very well!

IMPORTANT ENGINE!

Dear Fat Controller,
Gordon never seems to smile! Is he as happy as Thomas, my favourite engine?
Love from **Andrew Kern, aged 3.**

Gordon is happy and good-hearted, but he is also a very responsible and busy engine. This can sometimes make him look very serious. After his daily tasks are over, Gordon always has time to be friendly to his engine friends.

DIESEL'S RETREAT!

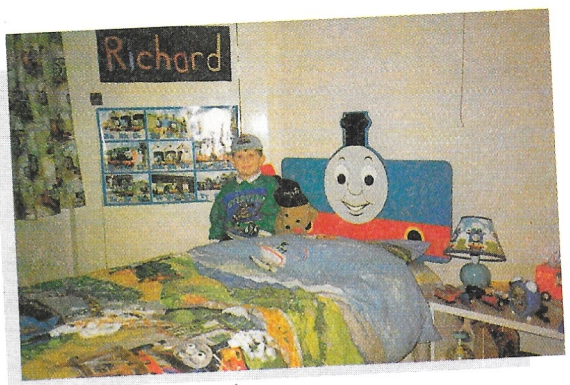
Dear Fat Controller,
Could you tell me where Diesel goes after he has been naughty!
Love from **Aran, aged 3.**

When Diesel or any other engine misbehaves, they are usually sent to the shed!

PHOTO STOP!

Dear Fat Controller,
We decorated our garden, as the Island of Sodor, during our gala week and we also made a Thomas the Tank Engine and a Bertie Bus! Can you see them in the photograph?
Love from **David McIntyre, aged 3.**

Dear Fat Controller,
I am sending you a picture of me in my Thomas Bedroom. I like Thomas best of all because he is a Really Useful Engine!
Love from **Richard, aged 4.**



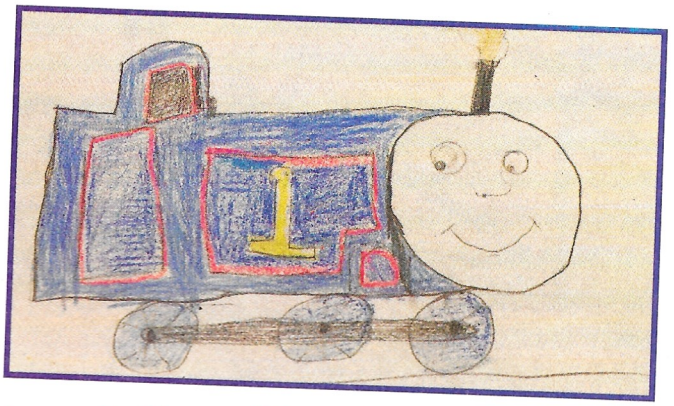
BIRTHDAYS!

Birthday greetings go out to...
Kevin Diaper, Jack Hart, Daniel James Northney, Alex Joseph Beadman, Christopher Rickards, Rachel Bowers, Robbie Lang, Gary Plant and Thomas Perris.

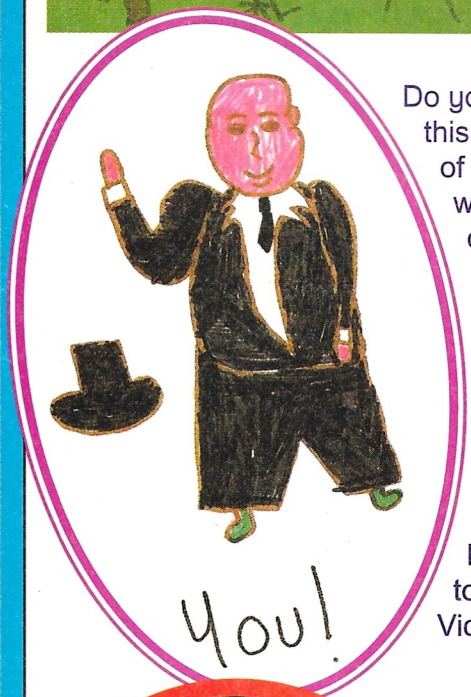
Drawing Board!

Thank you for sending your smashing drawings and pictures to the Fat Controller's Drawing Board!

This is a drawing of James, happy at work. **Jamie Duff** from Aberdeen, Scotland, has sent us this bright picture. Harold the Helicopter is flying along too!

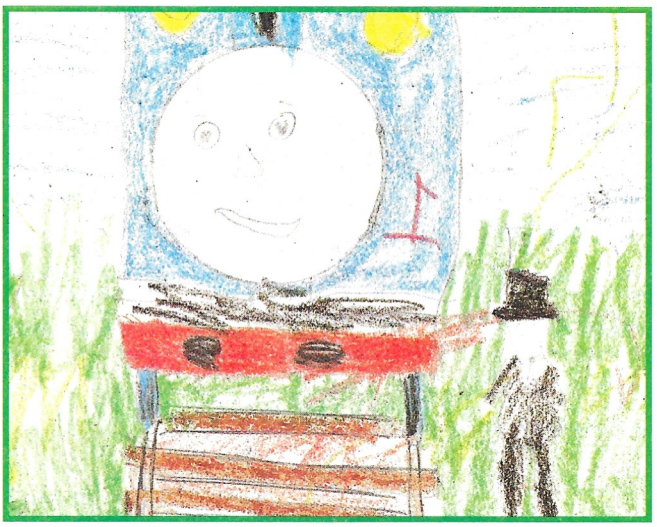


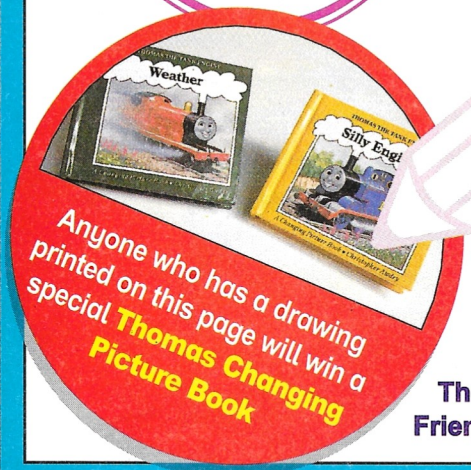
Laura Smith, aged 6, sent in a picture of Thomas on his branch line. I'm sure you'll agree that he is a really happy engine, too!



Do you like this portrait of me? It was drawn and coloured by **Victoria Kate Allison, aged 7.** I take my top hat off to you, Victoria!

We all think that **Paul Karoubas'** drawing of Thomas with the Fat Controller is really splendid. Well done, Paul!





Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book**

If you would like to have your drawing or painting displayed on this page, then please send your entries to: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.

CUT OUT AND KEEP

H is fo

Who can you see in this picture?
Is the weather hot or cold?
Point to the house!
Is it at the top or the bottom of the hill?

What colour are the stripes on the Fat Controller's scarf
What is the child pulling?
How many hands can you s
Colour the Fat Controller's H

or H S A

This centrespread should be cut out as it forms part of a continuous scene for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom.

e?
t!

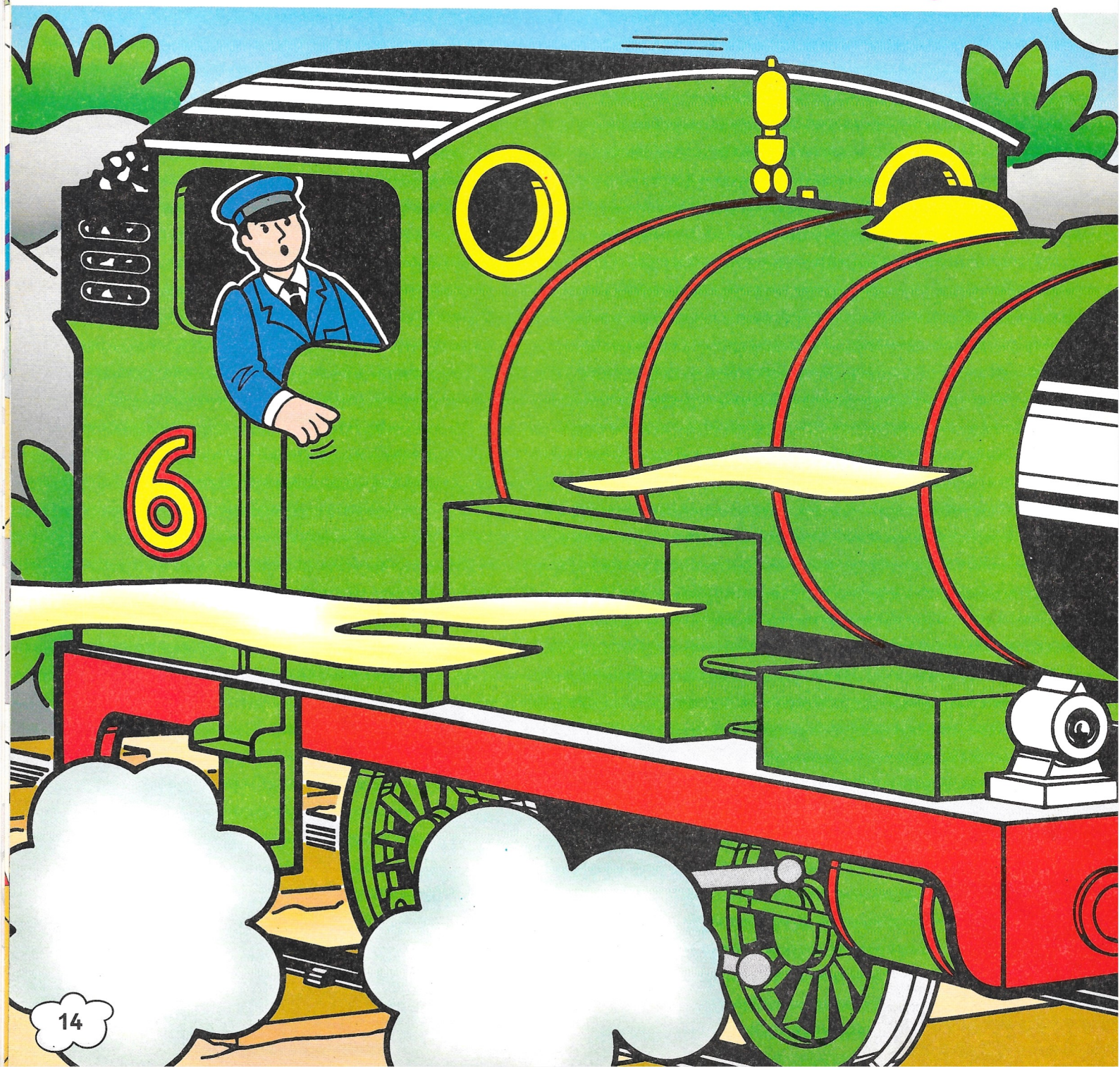
A READ ALOUD STORY
PEEP! PEEP!

Percy's Engine!

Percy had taken some trucks to a station on the main line. On the way back, it was foggy. A points failure forced Percy to use a quiet loop line. It ran near a quarry that had been closed down.

"It's very lonely here," thought Percy.

Suddenly, the little saddletank engine heard the faint puff, puff, puff of another steam engine.



Percy wondered who it could be.

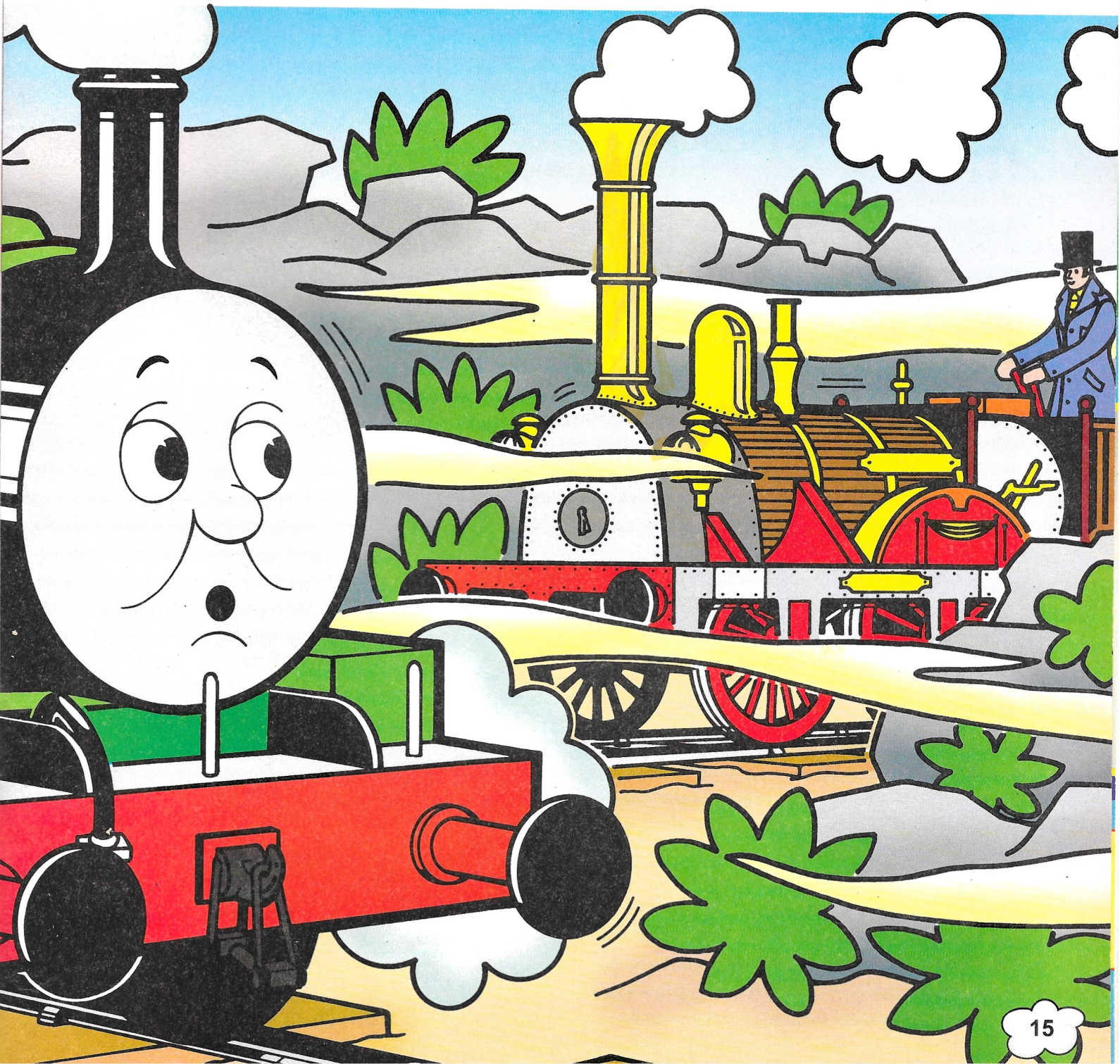
Through the swirling fog, on the old quarry line, came the strangest engine Percy had ever seen. It had a very long funnel and there was no cab for the driver. The driver of the strange engine looked odd too. He wore a tall hat and old-fashioned clothes. Next moment, the mysterious engine vanished into the fog again.

Later, in the yard, Percy excitedly told the other engines.

"You always tell stories," they laughed. "You can't fool us!"

A few days later, the Fat Controller had a special job for Thomas. First Thomas was coupled to a flat truck. Then he set off on his job.

Later, Percy took lots of visitors to a steam show beside a station. There was a steamroller, an old



steam tractor, Trevor the Traction Engine and even a steam-driven lorry. When Percy arrived, he stared in amazement. The steam engine from the quarry was giving rides. Thomas stood in a siding and watched it.

"Look! That's what I saw! Now do you believe me?" gasped Percy.

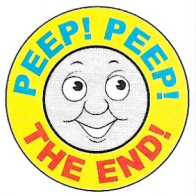
"Yes," smiled Thomas. "I brought that engine here. It was hidden under a canvas sheet on the flat truck."

His driver said the engine was a working model of one used more than a hundred years ago, when railways were a new way to travel.

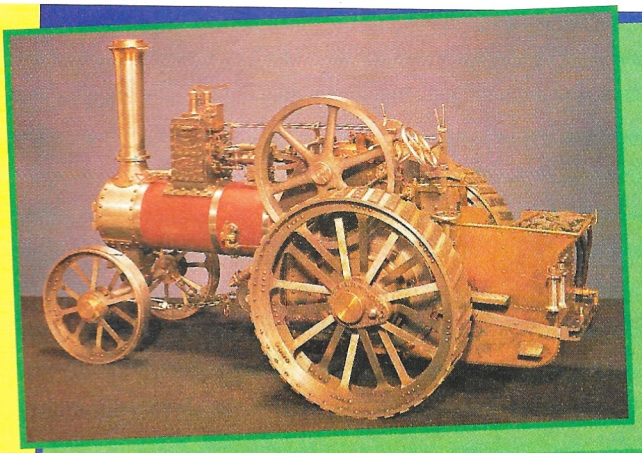
"It was being tested in secret at the quarry," he explained.

"This engine must be the surprise star of the show," added Thomas.

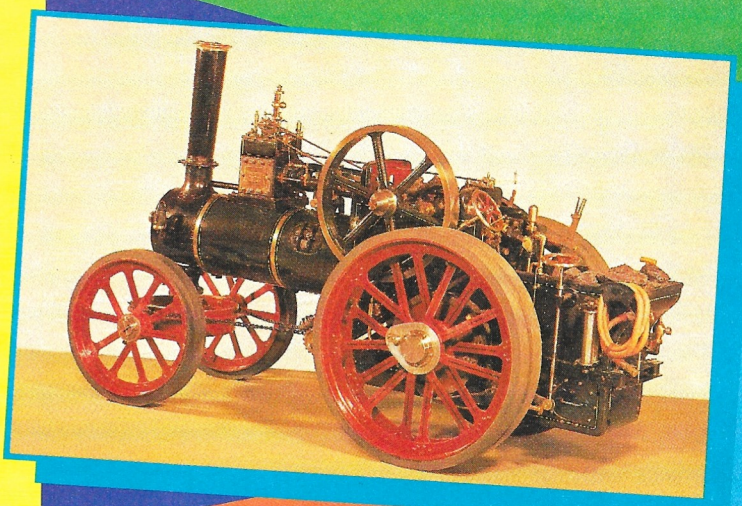
"It really surprised me!" laughed Percy.



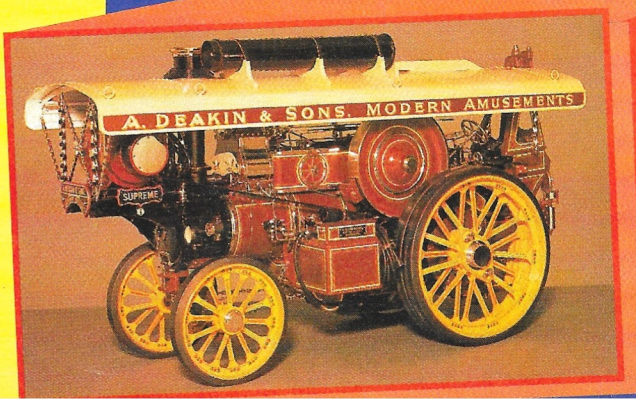
Here are some other splendid pictures of Traction Engines....



Burrells Compound Engine (1900).

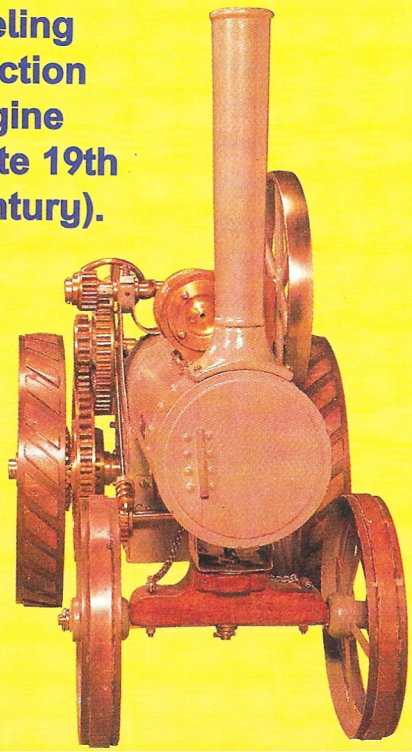


Ruston and Hornsby Traction Engine (1920).



Fowler Traction Engine (1910).

Aveling Traction Engine (Late 19th Century).



All pictures courtesy of The Science & Society Picture Library/Science Museum

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13 issues for the price of 12!

Subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 6 months (12 issues) and receive the 13th issue absolutely FREE!

I wish to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for:6 months (12 Issues & 13th issue FREE) for £12.00 (£20.00 overseas).

Child's name ..... Address .....

.....

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I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my Visa/Mastercard or call the Credit card hotline **0858 410510.**

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date .....

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Parent's/donors name Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... Address (if different from child's)

.....

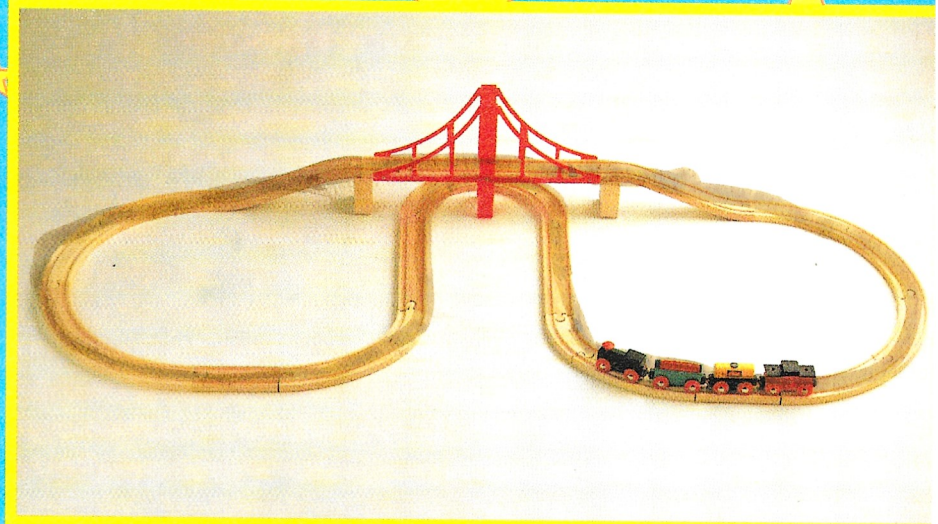
.....Post code .....

Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester, LE99 0AA.

Peep! Peep!

Steam into the New Year with Thomas and his friends in issue 189 of....

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



• **Brio competition** • **Magic painting** •
Calendar • **Thomas shapes**

Issue 189 Out on December 31st.

CHRISTMAS COLOURS!

Thomas and the Christmas Tree!

How many decorations has the guard hung on the tree?

10 SUPER PRIZES TO BE WON!

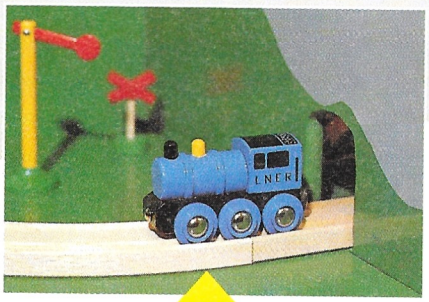
Part 1

Railway Set!

This complete ready-to-play **Wooden Train Set** includes an engine with 3 wagons and 1 load, 2 ascending tracks, 2 supports and 1 suspension bridge **(worth £37.25)!**

L.M.S. Train, complete with coal truck (worth £13.25).

G.W.R. Train, complete with coal truck (worth £9.95).



L.N.E.R. Train, faithfully reproduced in colours identical to the full-size engine (worth £6.25).

Each prize winner will receive the above Wooden Railway Set plus L.M.S. Train, a G.W.R. Train, and an L.N.E.R Train. Brio, who are leaders in producing wooden toys, have a host of exciting Railway Sets and accessories, all made from top quality materials! They're great fun to play with, too!

BRIO®

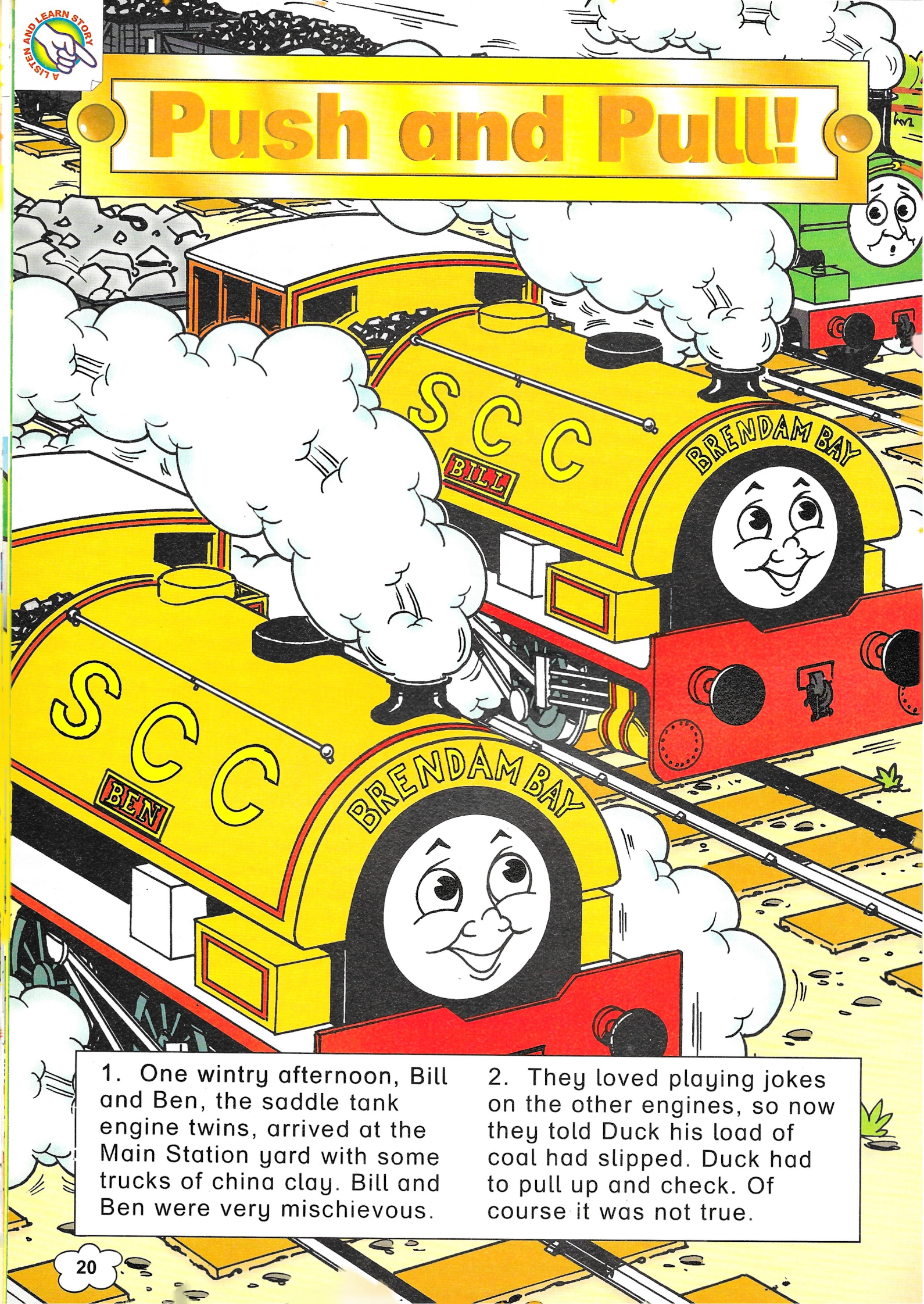
TOKEN

How to enter:

For your chance to win one of these fabulous prizes, simply keep the token on the right in a safe place, then send it along with your competition entry form from our next issue!

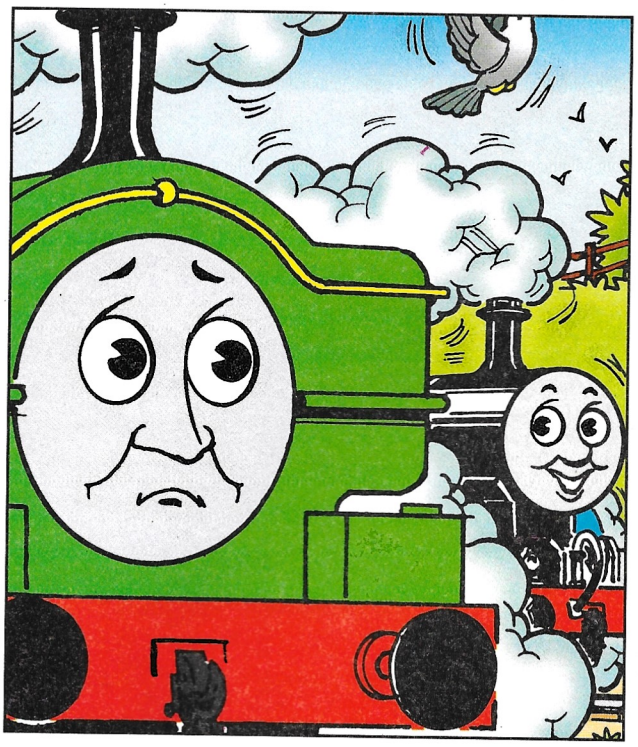
This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Ltd., and BRIO. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into. The final closing date will be January 27th, 1995.

Push and Pull!

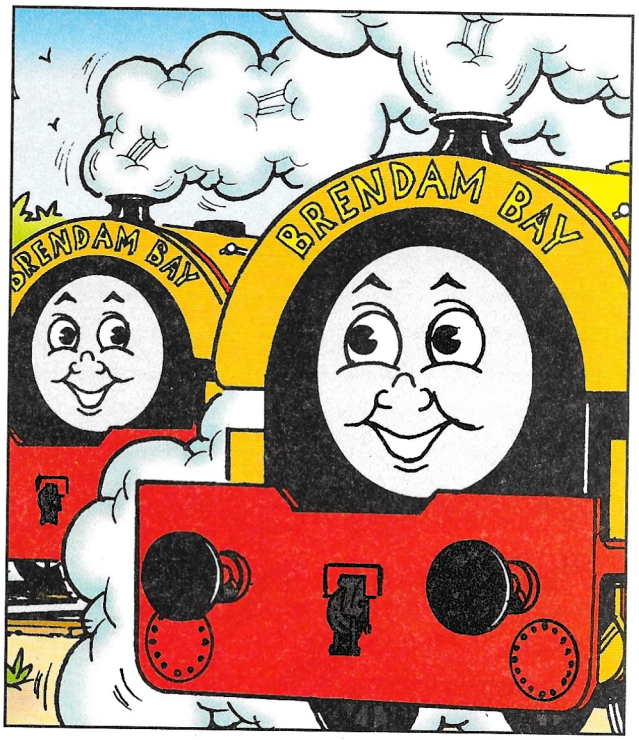


1. One wintry afternoon, Bill and Ben, the saddle tank engine twins, arrived at the Main Station yard with some trucks of china clay. Bill and Ben were very mischievous.

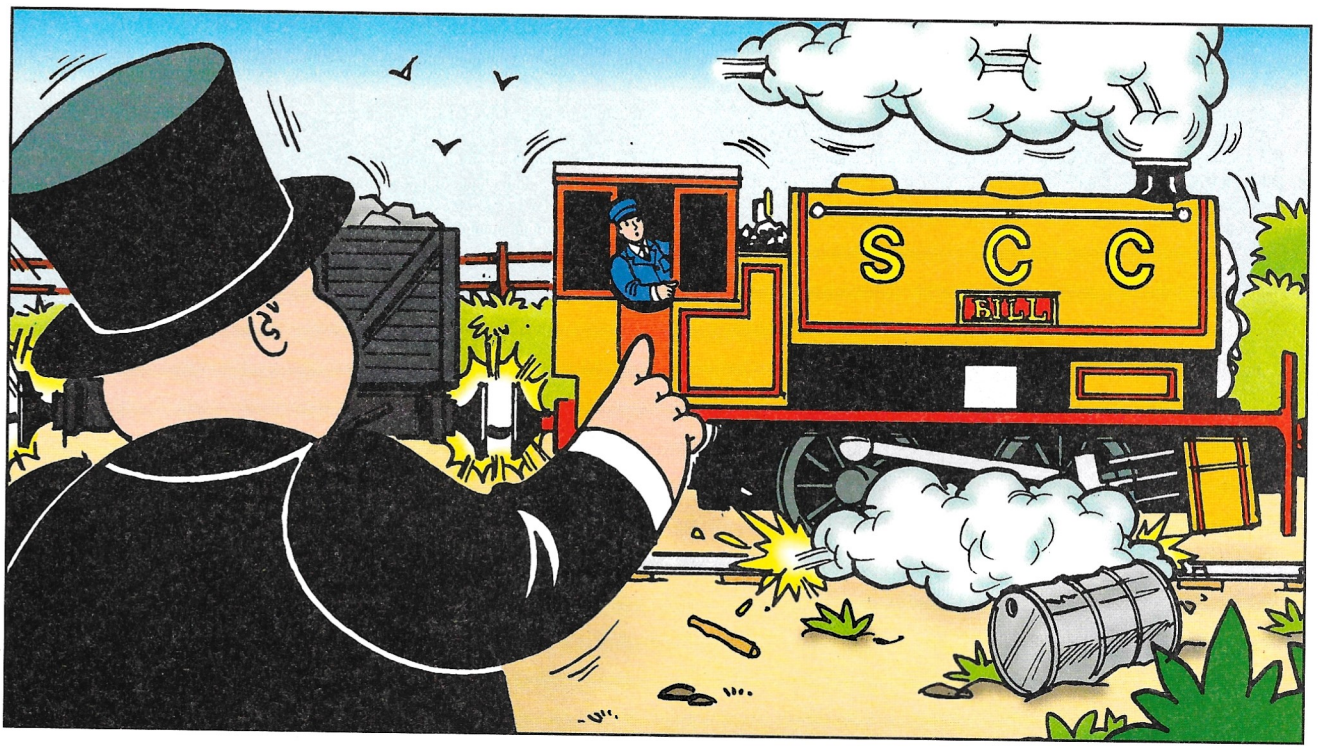
2. They loved playing jokes on the other engines, so now they told Duck his load of coal had slipped. Duck had to pull up and check. Of course it was not true.



3. The other engines grumbled as Bill and Ben's mischief stopped them from working properly. But Thomas soon cheered them all up.



4. "They can't fool us any more," laughed Thomas. "We know all their tricks now!" "We must think up a new one!" whispered the twins.

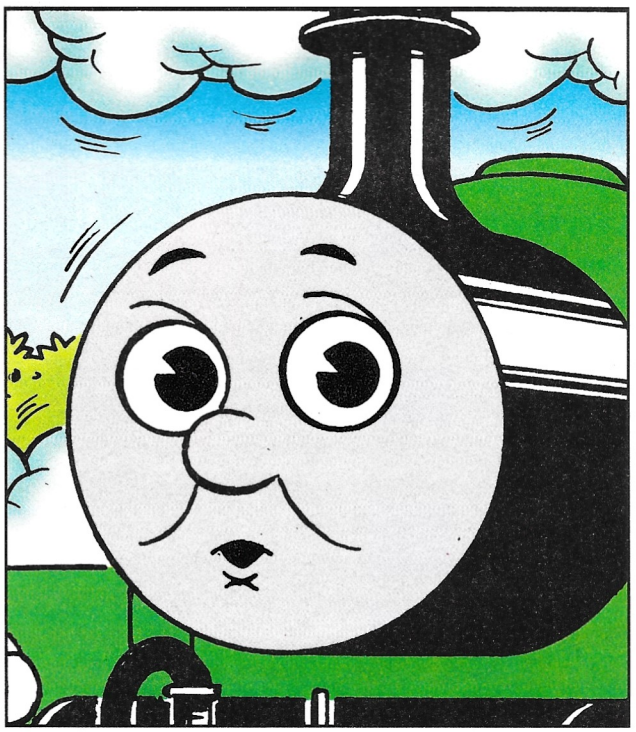


5. That night it was very cold. Next day, Bill was going to take his trucks to the Big Harbour. But there was ice on the line.

6. Although Bill pulled hard, his wheels slipped. The trucks would not move. "Ben will have to help!" said the Fat Controller.

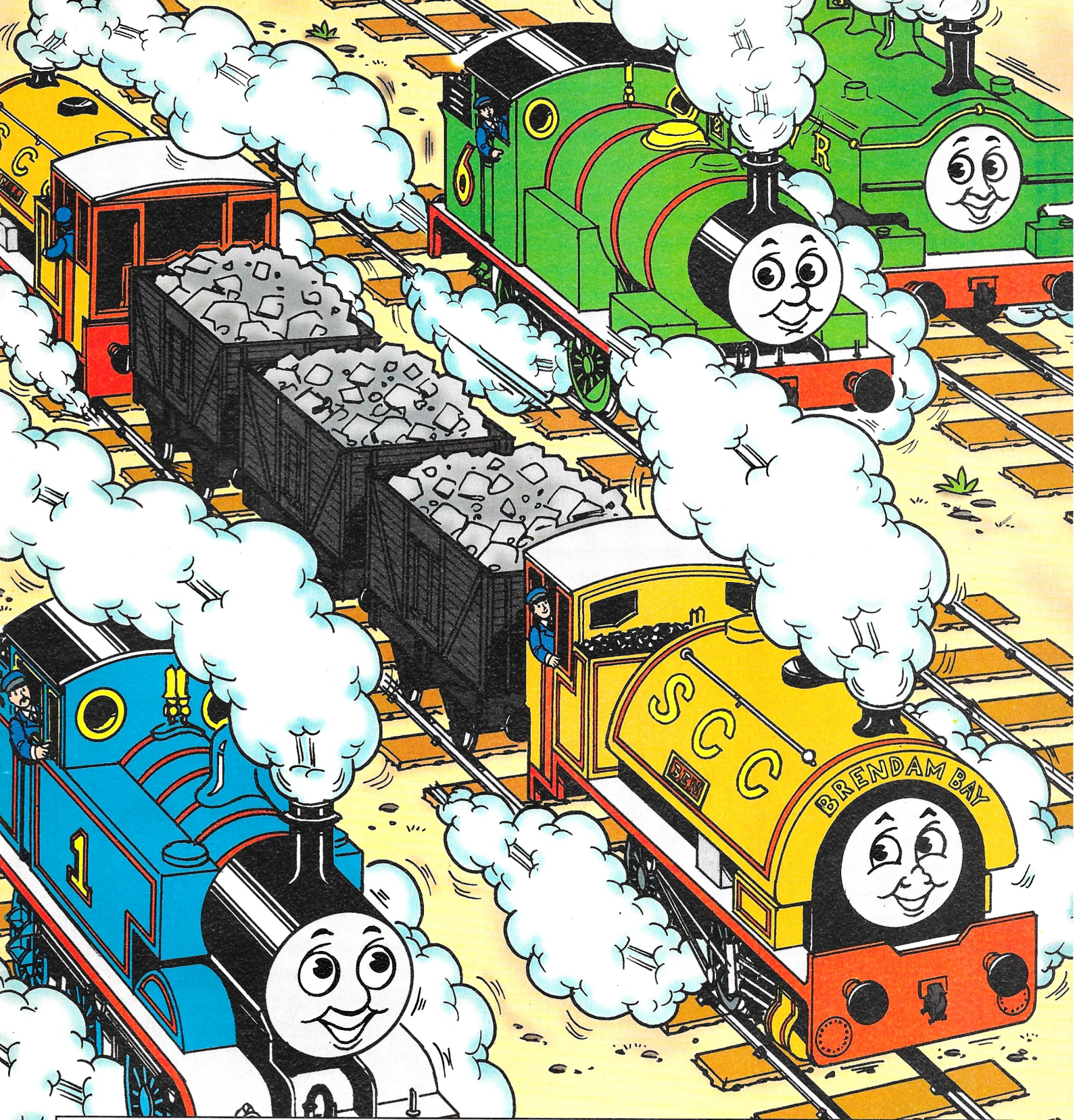
7. Ben was shunting empty trucks in a siding. He was facing the wrong way for Bill's train, so he rolled on to the big turntable.

8. "I'll turn you round," said his driver, "so you can push Bill's trucks as he pulls them!" But the cold weather had frozen the turntable solid.



9. "It won't budge," said the driver. "Then I'll go backwards, pushing Bill's trucks!" said Ben. He was coupled to the last one.

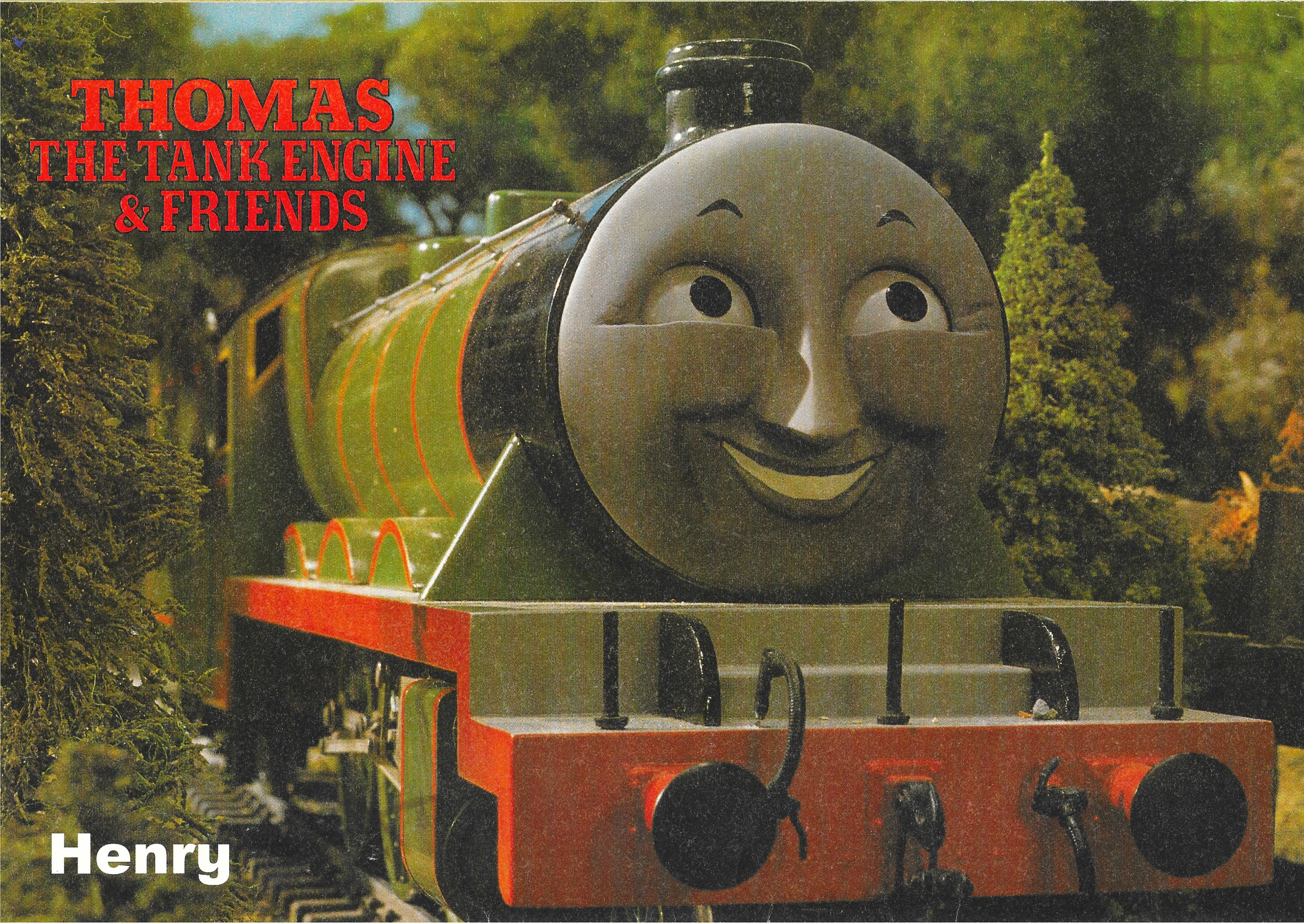
10. The twins were facing different ways. Then Ben had an idea. "We're having a tug-of-war!" he told Percy as he chuffed past.



11. Percy told the other engines who came to watch. "Who's the stronger twin?" they said. The clay trucks were heavy. Bill and Ben hissed steam as they pushed and pulled. At last, the trucks lurched forwards with Ben in reverse.

12. "You win, Bill!" called Ben. The twins enjoyed the joke. "It wasn't really a tug-of-war!" they laughed, hurrying off. "See! We're both going in the same direction!" "Oh no, I think they fooled us again!" Thomas smiled as everyone went back to work.

PEEP! PEEP! THE END!


THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Henry